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FRAGMENT  
OF THE  
HISTORY  
OF  
*PATRICK.*

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L O N D O N,

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## FRAGMENT

History of *PATRICK*.

**W**HILE the feuds among the great, about things which concern only themselves and their dependants, engage the attention of all who are interested or who have nothing else to think of; I cannot hope to turn the thoughts of such men, from an object so worthy of their time and talents, to the affairs of a private family, in which they have long since disclosed, how little they are concerned, however interesting they may appear to others.

The family, I mean, is that of which a renown'd *Hibernian* bard, in former times wrote a compendious history, a small part of which he published in *English*, which contains no more than a short account of *Patrick's* father and his three sons, *George*, *Patrick* and *Andrew*, and some complaints that *Patrick* made of his father's partiality, to his elder and younger brothers, *George* and *Andrew*, but several fragments of it have been lately discovered, one of which I here give the translation of from the original *Irish*, for the satisfaction of the curious. It is divided into chapters, and only relates to the domestick affairs of *Patrick*, and the oeconomy of his household, which was the only history *Patrick*, as he stood circumstanced, could furnish materials for.

*Patrick's* family settlement, had so many disadvantageous peculiarities in it, that it was very distinguishable from all other family settlements then existing.

He had a very considerable estate in lands, but poorly inhabited, and mostly by his own children, who were  
very

very numerous and generally in very low circumstances ; he was fond of shew, and kept two handsome houses, one on the top of a hill called *Mountformal*, in which there was much state and little business, and the servants, who were all chosen by *Patrick's* father and elder brother, were of the same use in *Patrick's* affairs, as the battle-axe guards are in the army. The other house, in which most of *Patrick's* business was transacted, was situated below at the foot of the hill, and as all the servants of it, were chosen by *Patrick's* children, it was more peculiarly *Patrick's* house than any other ; and what passed there, makes the principal branch of *Patrick's* history. In this house the servants of principal note, were Mrs. *Dorothy Major*, the house-keeper, and Mrs. *Jenny Minor*, and the coachman. The coachman was always chosen by Mrs. *Major*, the housekeeper ; she governed all affairs in the house, and confided much in the coachman, who was her creature, and he by the influence he generally had on her, was a servant of considerable consequence in the house ; as for Mrs. *Jenny Minor*, though her power was but small, she was sometimes very formidable to both the others, for she was long known to be a spy upon their actions, and if she ever caught them tripping, she never failed to make a rout in the house and spread it all abroad, among the children of *Patrick*. When there was any dispute about the choice of a servant, the matter was left to the decision of the housekeeper, who sometimes determined according to the merits of the case, and upon such occasions all the servants in the house were assembled to know her pleasure. A clause was found in the family settlement, all in *George's* hand writing, and that was, whenever *Patrick* neglected to make proper regulations in his family, his brother *George* should make them for him ; this *Patrick* stiffly deny'd to be any part of the settlement, and it was referred to counsel learned in the law, who were chosen and fee'd by *George*, so of course they gave their opinions flatly against *Patrick*, who thereupon submitted.

After this *George* took the chief government of all *Patrick's* domestick concerns, and as he lived at too great a

distance to be personally present with him, he sent to him every now and then, an Overseer to inspect and report, and if *Patrick* had any thing good to give away, the Overseer was to give it to such of *George's* children as he thought proper, and any thing else that was to be disposed of, *Patrick* was at liberty to give to his own children, and for this indulgence and service, the Overseer was to be paid by *Patrick* the highest wages going, and to enable the Overseer to perform this service the better, he kept the key of *Patrick's* Cellar and Larder.

Notwithstanding all the disadvantages *Patrick* laboured under, he kept up a good appearance at his city house, where his winter residence generally was, and such of his children as could make a decent appearance, lived round about him there, but those of them, who were ragged and half naked, he kept in the country, because they were not fit to be shewn to company. *Patrick*, besides carriages for ordinary use, kept a state coach to make a figure upon extraordinary occasions, for he was sonder of shew than his elder brother, not having so much business to do.

*Ralph* who drove the *North* stage for some Years, with the entire approbation of the proprietors, was by them recommended to Mrs. *Dorothy*, who took him into the place ; and during the short time that he lived in it, acquitted himself very well, and died with the character of an honest, careful fellow, and a good Coachman.

To him *Harry*, who had been his helper, succeeded : when he got into the box, he was reputed a bolder driver, but not so able a coachman ; he was obliged, like all his predecessors, to pay court to the house-keeper, which he did at first with due modesty and decorum.

In *Ralph's* time, Mrs. *Dorothy* had some character, for he made no attempts upon her virtue, yet they were upon as good terms as honest folks ought to be ; it was then *Ralph* and she advised her master to set apart the rents of a small farm which he could well spare, to be laid out in cutting drains thro' different parts of his estate, by which a water-carriage would be supplied to his children and tenants, and they might thereby find a market among themselves

themselves for the products of their farms; their bogs would become profitable, and all the wants of bread and firing, for which they were every year at the mercy of their neighbours, might be easily supplied at home, besides, they represented to him, what a pitiful figure he made at his chief *Mansion* in sending every second day for a box of coals to his brother *George*, and *Andrew's* tenants, to dress his dinner with, when they knew he had enough at home, but that they must suppose he was too lazy, or too beggarly to be at the trouble or expence of digging them. Upon these considerations, *Patrick* agreed to the proposal, and got his father and brother *George* to approve of it; so nothing was now wanting, but a careful and honest execution of this necessary scheme, which by *Ralph's* death, fell to *Harry* and Mrs. *Dorothy*. They appointed themselves and friends to oversee the work, and to apply the money.

*PATRICK's* children had always so high an esteem for their father's house-keeper, that what she said passed with them for a law, insomuch, that once upon a quarrel between her and the parson, whom she always hated, she only gave the word about, (*no grass for the parson's horse*) and not one blade of grass was to be had for him upon her master's whole estate, and this great deference for her, arose from an opinion they had of her being a sensible, discreet, orderly woman, by which she had the ear of her master, and was his principal adviser in all his domestick concerns, and indeed *Patrick* had no other concerns worth talking of, so that if she neglected them, she neglected his all.

*Harry* and Mrs. *Dorothy* knew this, and therefore to preserve their credit with the family, they began the work briskly, opened the ground here and there, and went on employing a number of hands. In the mean while the longer *Harry* continued in his place, the better he grew acquainted with Mrs. *Dorothy*, and the more he discovered her weak side. He perceived he could prevail upon her to go greater lengths with him than she did with any of his predecessors; upon which he resolves to take occasion by the forelock, and to take all advantages of Mrs.

*Dorothy's frailty* : He invited her to treats and junkets, which she readily accepted of ; but as his wages was not sufficient to keep up this sport long, ways and means must be found out to supply them in it. Many were from time to time devised and put in execution ; among others they found out that the profits of the farm which in *Ralph's* time was set apart, (as mentioned before) was not equal to the expence of carrying on the work in all its branches, and this they agreed was sufficient reason for not doing any part of it, and dropping it entirely, and the product of the farm would answer other purposes more agreeable to them, tho' less useful to the family ; and if any servant in the house should be impertinent enough to ask a question about it, they knew how to stop his mouth when they pleased ; so by degrees it became quite neglected and not a word was heard of it from thence-forward in *Patrick's* house.

Upon laying aside this work which had no other advantage or use in it than to provide the necessaries of life for the numerous family of their master. If any of the children met *Mrs. Dorothy* when she went to take a little country air, and complained to her of cold and hunger, she bid them be under no apprehensions, for she had drove all poachers off the land, and there would be plenty of wild fowl next year at their father's house, where, if they could contrive to get in and behave well, *Hall* and she would carve for them, and help them to a leg or a wing, if any thing was left after the servants were fed ; and indeed she was so far as good as her word, that she was particularly careful of her masters *Grouse*, *Partridge*, and *Pheasant*, but never once considered how she was to provide fire to roast them, or bread to eat with them ; but for these articles depended mostly upon the Neighbours, for such now was the settled rule of œconomy in *Patrick's* house, and the children were left to shift for them as well as they could, by picking sticks for firing, and eating potatoes instead of bread.

In the mean while *Harry* and *Mrs. Dorothy* regaled themselves every day with all the tit bits of the house, and their intimacy increased to a degree far beyond the bounds

bonnds of friendship. They gratified themselves with so little regard to the observation of the family, that any one with half an eye might see what they were about. At last they grew so careless of what any one thought, that they suffered themselves to be surprized in the very fact. And once upon a public occasion, when all the family of the house were met together, to know Mrs. *Dorothy's* pleasure about a new servant that was recommended; she signified her pleasure in a manner that amazed all the standers by. For she went aside, where † *Harry*, in the view of the whole assembly, engaged in criminal conversation with Mrs. *Dorothy*, and then made her turn off the recommended servant, and take in a professed friend of his old rival *Presto* the *Jugler*; from the last circumstance their friends excused them, by saying, they must have been both drunk, or they would never have acted a part at once both impolitic and indecent.

*Harry* had now visibly no regard to Mrs. *Dorothy's* character, but carried on his intercourses with her, more for the good cheer he got by her, than from any affection he had to her person; for this reason he was never jealous of any who wanted only a single favour from her, provided he made his court thro' him, by whose intercession the wooer was never disappointed, but if he was so indiscreet as to solicit her chastity privately, without employing *Harry's* good offices, he not only was repulsed then, but could never hope for her favour after; for *Harry*, by providing others for her, as well as by his own personal services, became in a double capacity the minister of her pleasures, and was besides occasionally the *Champion* of her virtue.

Accordingly the overseer, when he wanted a favour from Mrs. *Dorothy*, employed *Harry* as his solicitor, and these three always kept up a good correspondence with each other, in which they all found their account; for tho' the Overseer kept the key of the cellar and larder, yet it was by Mrs. *Dorothy's* orders they were both fill'd, so that as she laid in the good cheer, so he gave it

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out, in which he did not forget himself, and the honest housekeeper, and coachman.

For many years this good intelligence subsisted among them, and while it did, things went on swimmingly with *Harry* and *Mrs. Dolly*, entertaining themselves and their company with some of the best the house could afford; when an unlucky accident happened, which threatened some small interruption to their enjoyments.

*Mrs. Dolly* hired some bungling *Mason* to repair the parish *Watch-house*, who after botching the work, and overcharging forty shillings, was paid his bill, and yet gave the perquisite usual on such occasions, to some of the servants of the Overseer, instead of dividing it with the servants of *Patrick*, to make them drink.

The reader must know, that in all well-regulated families, an honest servant never suffers a tradesman to cheat his master, unless he shares in the gain; which he looks upon as part of his vails.

The mason's affair set the servants of *Patrick* in an uproar; *Mrs. Dorothy* spent whole days in scolding, and calling him all to naught, and threatened, if he did not refund, she would have him kick'd out of the house, if ever he dar'd to set his foot in it. *Mrs. Dorothy's* fury upon this affair, was magnified to the children and tenants, as an instance of her zeal and activity, in every thing that concerned their interest, and it produced in them this strange effect; it occasioned reflections upon her constant and steady indifference, for more than twenty years past, to an affair of the last consequence to them, and absolutely in her power: That they were in annual danger of starving, for want of a supply from their neighbours of what they might find at home, if she had used half the diligence in draining their lands, that she does now, to detect a rotten brick, or a broken tyle in the watch-house; that there is but this one excuse to be made for her extravagant conduct, that she is convinced in her conscience, that a drop of rain falling upon a watchman's coat, is of much higher concern, than a general famine among her master's children; that it was plain they squabbled only for their own perquisites; so let them  
fight

fight it out, said they among themselves, when rougues fall out, honest people may come by their own.

Another circumstance at this time, gave this loving couple, *Harry* and *Doll* much more uneasiness than the former. They found that the Overseer, contrary to the custom of his predecessors, shut the larder and cellar against them; that Mrs. *Jenny Minor* now got her share of what was stirring, and was growing plump and sizable, while Mrs. *Dorothy* was much stinted in her usual amusements; this *Harry* suspected was done to draw her off from him, and then fill up his place with a new coachman.

At this he swore bloodily that it was breaking down all the rules of the family, that it was well known for time out of mind, to be a maxim in the house that Mrs. *Dorothy Major's* name signified all *Patrick's* children, and her person was always to be treated with the same respect and tenderness: that most of the children, who lived in the country were weak and lean, from the poverty of their food, and that they would all fall into a consumption, if Mrs. *Dorothy* was not fed with the nicest bits in the larder; that they were subject to lowness of spirits for want of some generous liquors to drink, and would all die of the vapours, if the cellar was not opened, as usual, to regale Mrs. *Dorothy* and her company; that it was well known how diligently both he and she had observed in their own persons, the aforesaid regimen for many years, meerly for the sake of the poor children of their master, lest they should be oppressed with thirst, hunger or sorrow, and though most of them were never the fatter or merrier for all the care they had taken of them; yet he could name four or five of them, who from being as poor carrion as ever fell in a ditch, were now become as fat as porpoises. Mrs. *Jenny Minor* listened to all this with a profound silence, for she knew how things went, and how vain it was to argue against Mrs. *Dolly* and *Harry* in that house; that by opposing them, heretofore, she got nothing but ill usage; that she had been kept at short allowance, as if there had been a famine in the house; that she had been reduced to a skeleton, and indeed it was a shame to see such a spectacle in

in a house, where so much was lavish'd away without any benefit to the family ; and if she had not some pocket money of her own and friends without, she must have starved ; but of late she was growing into ease, by the kindness of the Overseer and *John*, the marketman.

Mrs. *Jenny* kept up a good character with every one, except the housekeeper and coachman ; she and Mrs. *Dorothy* had been always at variance, and were the reverse of one another in all respects. Mrs. *Dorothy* with strong liquors, high feeding and bad hours, was grown fat and bloated, and so weak ey'd, that she could not see the most plain and obvious thing that related to her master's children, though just under her nose, but if she heard the voice of any of her pot companions, she prick'd up her ears, put a glass to her eye, and could then see to a miracle all that concerned their interest : She grew heedless of what the world said of her, and provided she enjoyed an intrigue and a bottle, cared not a farthing how things went with the family.

Mrs. *Jenny*, though she had long been extremely thin and meagre, had naturally a good sound constitution, which she did not impair by any excesses ; she was rather abstemious than otherwise, she had a regard to her character, and was well spoken of among the children of *Patrick*, whose interest she was now supposed to have more at heart than the housekeeper. While Mrs. *Dorothy* preserved her reputation, Mrs. *Jenny* was held in contempt, but her good name improved daily as the other's declined, and she became respected as a vestal, when the other was despised as a prostitute.

*John*, the marketman, had a sneaking kindness for Mrs. *Jenny*, and upon every occasion, in his power, was her very good friend. *John* was an honest young fellow, and for some years drove the market cart, had the care of fetching home all the wines, groceries and spirits for the family use, and if there was a crock of butter or a hide to be sold, they were sent to market under *John*'s care, and whenever he had a glass of any thing good, he complimented Mrs. *Jenny* with it. *Harry*, at first, took no notice of *John*'s regards for Mrs.

*Jenny*

*Jenny*, whom he had long despised, but observing them grow very intimate with the chaplain, and always whispering about the house; that they often paid their respects to the Overseer, with whom he was not on as good terms as formerly; he began to have huge suspicions of a plot, and hearing at the same time, that the Overseer had made some advances to *Mrs. Dorothy*, unknown to him, he thought he plainly discovered, that *John* had a mind to be coachman; that he now saw the reason why the larder and cellar were not open to him as usual; that they intended to inveigle *Mrs. Dorothy* from him, by disabling him to amuse her any longer, with entertainments and parties of pleasure.

He had no reliance upon her constancy; he knew that her virtue and reputation had been long upon a level; that in her temper she was grown luxurious and mercenary, and therefore had some reasonable doubts of her fidelity to him, if the present restraint upon her pleasures was not speedily removed.

However he carefully concealed from her the disrespectful sentiments he had of her, and she on her part being secretly pleased to think the Overseer had designs upon her, as carefully concealed her sentiments from him, so that in all outward appearance they kept up a good correspondence with each other.

*Harry* now redoubled his assiduities, and went in the morning to pay his respect to her at her own chamber, when he might expect to find her sober; he there endeavoured to alarm her, by telling her, that the Overseer had a scheme of pulling down their master's house, under pretence of building a better for him, in a more wholesome situation, upon his brother *George's* estate; that he only wanted her consent, and when that was got, and the house once pulled down, she may go whistle for a service, for the Overseer would never build another house for her master.

That *John* the marketman was the son of old *Presto* the Juggler, who was the greatest practitioner in the *Hocus Pocus* way in the whole county; that it was well known if ever he fingered sixpence of any man's money,  
he

he never ceased 'till by slight of hand he drew the balance that remained in his neighbour's pocket fairly into his own, by which he made a comfortable livelihood, and lived snug and warm upon the profits of his business, which he taught to all his sons; that if she suffered *John* to have any communication with her, she would never be worth a groat, and if she chose him for a coachman, his father would not only leave him penniless, but would even cheat the horses of their corn, or he would blow the chaff into her eyes while he was putting the oats into his pocket.

That he heard the *Chaplain* had the assurance to give her some advice in private for changing her conduct, but he hoped she would not be influenced by any advice that came from such a clergyman, who idled away all his time in playing *Scotch-hop* and *Shuttle-cock*, with school-boys, when he ought to be employed in reading some godly *Homily* at home.

Here *Harry* finished his visit, and took his leave. *Mrs. Dorothy* seriously attended to every part of this discourse, except what related to the chaplain, which as she was now sober, she treated as a jest. As soon as *Harry's* back was turned, she hied away to her long despised fellow-servant *Mrs. Jenny*, who in this case was as much interested as she, and after some apologies for the abruptness of her visit, told her all she had heard about the Overseer and *John*, and desired to know her thoughts upon the matter. *Mrs. Jenny* answered that she wondered how one of *Mrs. Dorothy's* experience could be under any apprehensions about any scheme, which could not be executed without her own consent, that as for *John*, she would be bound for his honesty, and tho' she did not believe what she heard, yet supposing all to be true that *Mrs. Dorothy* had told her, she thought it redounded to *John's* credit, that his natural honesty got the better of his education so far, that he never followed the business of a *Juggler*, but earned an honest livelihood by driving their master's market cart, as all knew; as for making him coachman, I believe *Mrs. Dorothy*, it is equal to you who is coachman, provided your master's business is done.

done. Here Mrs. *Jenny* pretended to be ignorant of the private connexion, which had long subsisted, between Mrs. *Dorothy* and *Harry*, whose pot companions were at this time busy in trumpeting their praises abroad, and wherever they met any of their master's children or tenants they told them;

What a brave fellow *Harry* was, how much he ventured for their sake, in standing up at once against three adversaries, the Overseer, *John* and the Chaplain; that Mrs. *Dorothy* had been always as good as a mother to them all; that they ought now to lend them a helping hand, if required, in gratitude for their long and faithful services, and their well known affection to all their master's children, which upon every occasion they, most plainly demonstrated. Have they not for your sake, said they, banished poachers, deprived \* a parson, blistered an apothecary, and are now about to immure a mason in his own rotten bricks and mortar; in short the labours of *Hercules* are light, in comparison to what they have affected for your service.

Good lack, cry'd one of the ragged sons of *Patrick*, is this all they can shew for five and twenty years; is it for this we must enter into the right honourable dispute, whether an old whore should have a new gallant? whether Mrs. *Dorothy* shall have young *John* or old *Harry*. We have long experienced one to no purpose, therefore, I am for a new man, and if he be chaster than *Harry*, Mrs. *Dorothy* may reform, and then we may possibly get ~~fire~~ to warm us, bread to feed us, and cloaths to cover us. The family has some chance in a change, but none at all, while matters go on as they have done: *John* has an honest character, good friends, and as being the younger man, may expect to continue longer among us, so have a greater respect for what may be thought or said of him: But if *John* won't do, there are others in the house as honest as he, and abler than *Harry*. Its well known, poor as we are, how much worse we should have been, had we depended upon *Harry* and Mrs. *Doll* to take care of us, if it were not  
for

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for our honest friend, *Farmer* † *Goodman*, we should have even our gardens waste; he, as far as he was able, helped us at his own expence to make up our fences, plant our ditches, dig our gardens, to brew and to bake, while Mrs. *Dorothy* received the wages that poor *Goodman* deserved; and was all the time taken up with schemes how to encrease her own vails, at our expence. As for her friend *Harry*, he seemed to think, that after himself had been served, our father's rents were better employed in cramming his cousin, *Robin Roundgut*, with plumb-pudding and custard; than saving us from starving.

While things went on thus, *Harry* and *Dolly* put their heads together, and finding, that the Overseer persisted in keeping them out of the larder and cellar, they agreed to write a letter to *Patrick's* father, but not before they consulted an attorney's clerk of their acquaintance, about their title to the perquisites, which they had in right of their places in the house, and having stated their case, he was clearly of opinion, that as they had been for more than twenty years in quiet and peaceable possession of their places, of which the children of their master had given them livery and seizen, and no legal claim being made during that time, on behalf of the children of *Patrick*, of any service due to them; they were within the statute of limitations, and held their places in the house now as their own private property, free and discharged of all duties and services to the children of their master, who sent them there, and that the perquisites which they had in right of their places, could not now, under colour of their not doing service to the family, be withheld, without an infringement upon the law and the liberty of the subject.

This satisfactory opinion, being had, they resolved to change the form of the letter, they intended for *Patrick's* father, and to give it the air and cast of a letter missive, to make it look like the commencement of a suit for their legal property.

Accordingly

Accordingly the letter was drawn up, but not in their names, in order to try the ford ; and it run so.

† *Please your honour,*

*Harry* has been fully twenty years in the box, and during that time has been employed as coachman in every job, either for city or country, by your honour's Overseer, in which they always left to him the care and direction of Mrs. *Dorothy*, who always placed the greatest confidence in him ; he had always heretofore free access to the larder and cellar in consideration of his aforesaid services : but he is now treated as no longer worthy of that honour, the better to carry on the endeavours used to turn his and his friends perquisites into another channel, that is into the hands of the chaplain, who from his profession for your honour's service, should rather keep up the virtuous harmony and unanimity which has subsisted between *Harry* and the housekeeper, and not stir up a flame between them, who were till lately both of one mind.

And may it please your honour, what do you think, but they carried their spite so far, as to stop the little wages of fourscore pounds a year, which was allowed to *Harry's* cousin, *Robin Roundgut*, for introducing into his master's family, the true art of roasting a leg of pork, and god knows the wages is very trifling, when compared with our master's estate, who has above five hundred pounds a year, and with the eminence of the service, which all who love to eat, that is, all the world, must allow to be very considerable ; and this they did to one who was always, in all things, attached to your honour, and would at any time go up to his neck in dirt to serve any of your honour's Overseers, as the last Overseer can testify, provided the wages of such service were continued in the old hands, who have been long earning it ; but as no good reason can be assigned for so rash an action, as the stopping of wages so well apply'd, it is thought it was done to shew that they could get others to do their work as cheap as they, and that they must lower their price. It is with great concern I assure

† The E—— of ——'s M——l.

sure your honour, that the breach is growing wider, for not only promises to some and threats to others are daily used, but indirect attempts are made to disturb the quiet possession which the coachman and house-keeper, and their relations, have enjoyed for 20 years in their places and vails, in which they have as they are advised, a legal property now by the statutes of limitation, free and discharged from all services to any but themselves.

I hope your honour will pardon me for attempting to inform you of these things, but I do it from the dread I have of the fatal consequence of an angry coachman in the box, when the wheels of the state coach are ready to take fire, because he will not grease them himself, nor let any one else do it for him, 'till all his vails are restored as formerly, and when that is done, please your honour he is ready, as he always was, to drive thro' thick and thin for any of your honour's Overseers, as he plainly shewed in the late Overseer's time. I am, &c.

When this letter was finished, their next care was to find a proper person to sign it, and they thought of one of the servants of the upper house, upon *Mountformal*, who was a warm well-meaning man, and as there was no business stirring in his house, they imagined he would be glad to be employed, this was *James* the waggoner, who very readily offered his service when applied to, and subscribed the letter; then *James* considered that if it was sent by post it might miscarry, therefore a safe-hand must be found for the carriage of it, and after much deliberation and casting about, he could think of no hand so safe as his own, therefore resolved to be the bearer of his own letter.

End of the first Chapter.

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